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14 December 1965

OCI No. 0593/65

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Current Intelligence

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Thailand.	1
Cameroon.	2
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Peru.	4
Venezuela	5
Guatemala	6

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
14 December 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Review of Insurgency Problems

1. Thailand

Two minor skirmishes between police and suspected subversives occurred in Nakhon Phanom Province on 6 and 8 December. The number of subversives involved was small in both instances, and there were no police casualties. A government helicopter was fired on during the 8 December engagement, but sustained no damage. Both skirmishes, the ninth and tenth in the northeast this year, came as a result of government patrol activity.

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2. Cameroon

Communist-supported Cameroonian dissident elements are getting a new lease on life as a result of hospitality and facilities being afforded them by the radical regime in Congo (Brazzaville). Although these elements do not pose any early threat to moderate President Ahidjo's government in Yaounde, Ahidjo and other Cameroonian authorities are becoming increasingly concerned about the security of the remote, heavily forested southeastern corner of their country.

Reports

[redacted] of a growing presence in Congo (Brazzaville) of elements of the outlawed Cameroon People's Union (UPC) have been accumulating for several months. These elements, including long-exiled UPC activists and some newer recruits, are said to be receiving ideological and guerrilla training along with militants of the Brazzaville youth movement at a site near Brazzaville. Other UPC adherents are reportedly based at a forward camp in the vicinity of Ouessou near the Cameroonian frontier. Chinese Communists, who now number several hundred in Congo (Brazzaville), have been reported serving in supporting roles in both places.

Yaounde claims to have uncovered evidence of propaganda activity among the populace in southeastern Cameroon and has been increasingly fearful that the dissidents may launch guerrilla attacks across the border. The Cameroonian government believes that the immediate aim of such guerrilla activity would be to ease government pressure on UPC remnants still holding out in the southwest highlands. The government has been concerned over possible coordinated forays from eastern Nigeria and the Central African Republic along with attacks from the Congo.

Although Cameroonian fears are almost certainly exaggerated--especially regarding the numbers of UPCists now at peripheral points--the situation bears careful watching. The dissidents evidently are infiltrating the southeast in small numbers. They may attempt some cross-border forays

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and force the government, which has already increased its army and gendarmerie strength in the area, to disperse its thin forces still further. Any real insurgency there would probably consist of low-level activity for the foreseeable future and would hardly pose a direct threat to the Ahidjo regime. However, government efforts to cope with it would be impeded by the difficult terrain and lack of roads as well as the weakness of the security forces.

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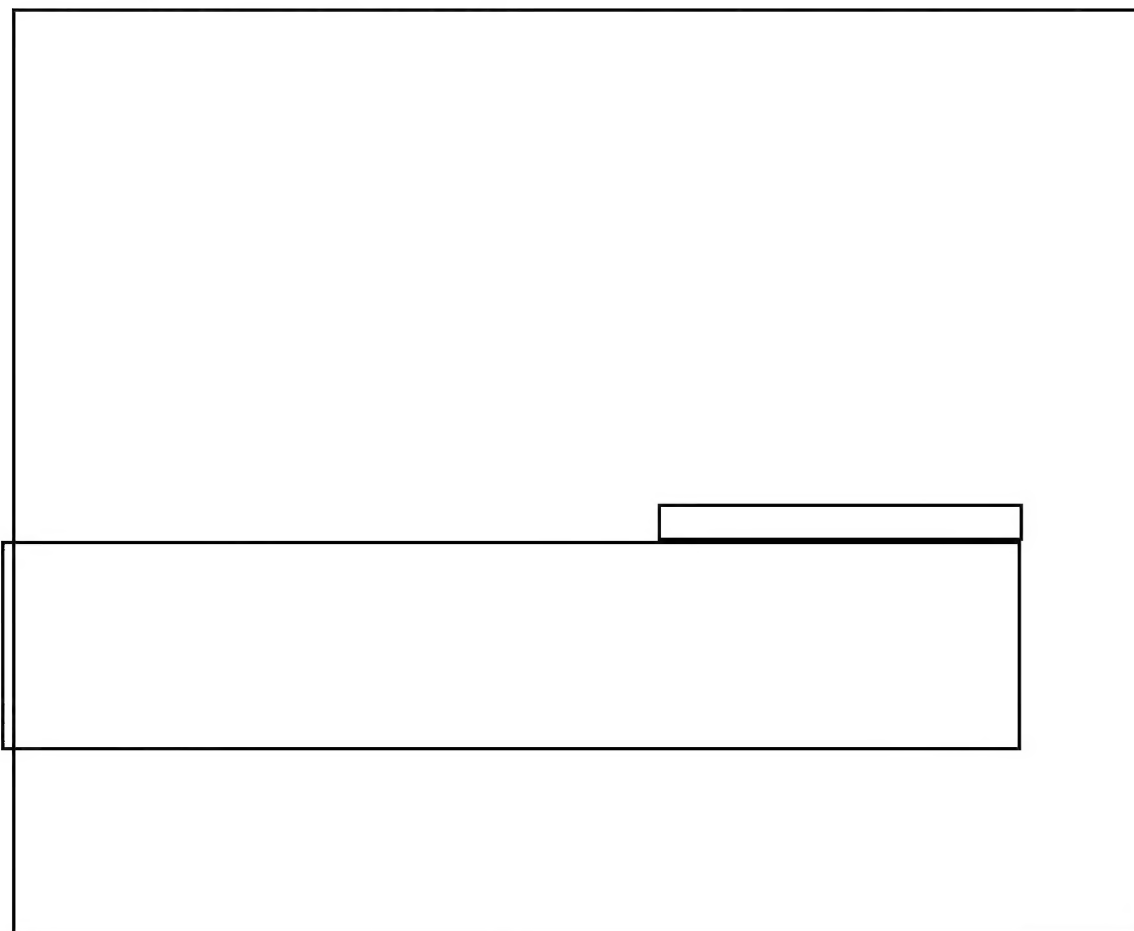


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4. Peru

The recent capture of two high-ranking guerrilla leaders in central Peru is the first serious blow to the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) in that region. Until now, the hard-core MIR membership in central Peru has remained relatively unscathed, despite numerous clashes with government forces.

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receiver at the Franciscan mission, demanded food and supplies, and departed after spending the night. Government forces are now searching for the band in this area. [REDACTED]

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5. Venezuela

A booby-trapped gift sent to a congressional leader of the governing Democratic Action (AD) party on 6 December apparently was intended to explode in Congress and would probably have killed him and several of his colleagues had it done so. The gift appeared to be a statuette of the Virgin Mary, which the congressman took home to his wife. The bomb detonated when she removed a tag attached to the image, and she was killed.

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No single act of terrorism in Venezuela's violence-ridden history has created such widespread revulsion among the people and their leaders. This has been directed generally at the Communist Party (PCV) and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). Congress, in a special joint session, unanimously condemned both organizations. President Leoni also spoke out against the PCV, claiming the bombing was the Communists' reply to overtures for pacification issued publicly by a group of intellectuals--possibly with AD backing.

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6. Guatemala

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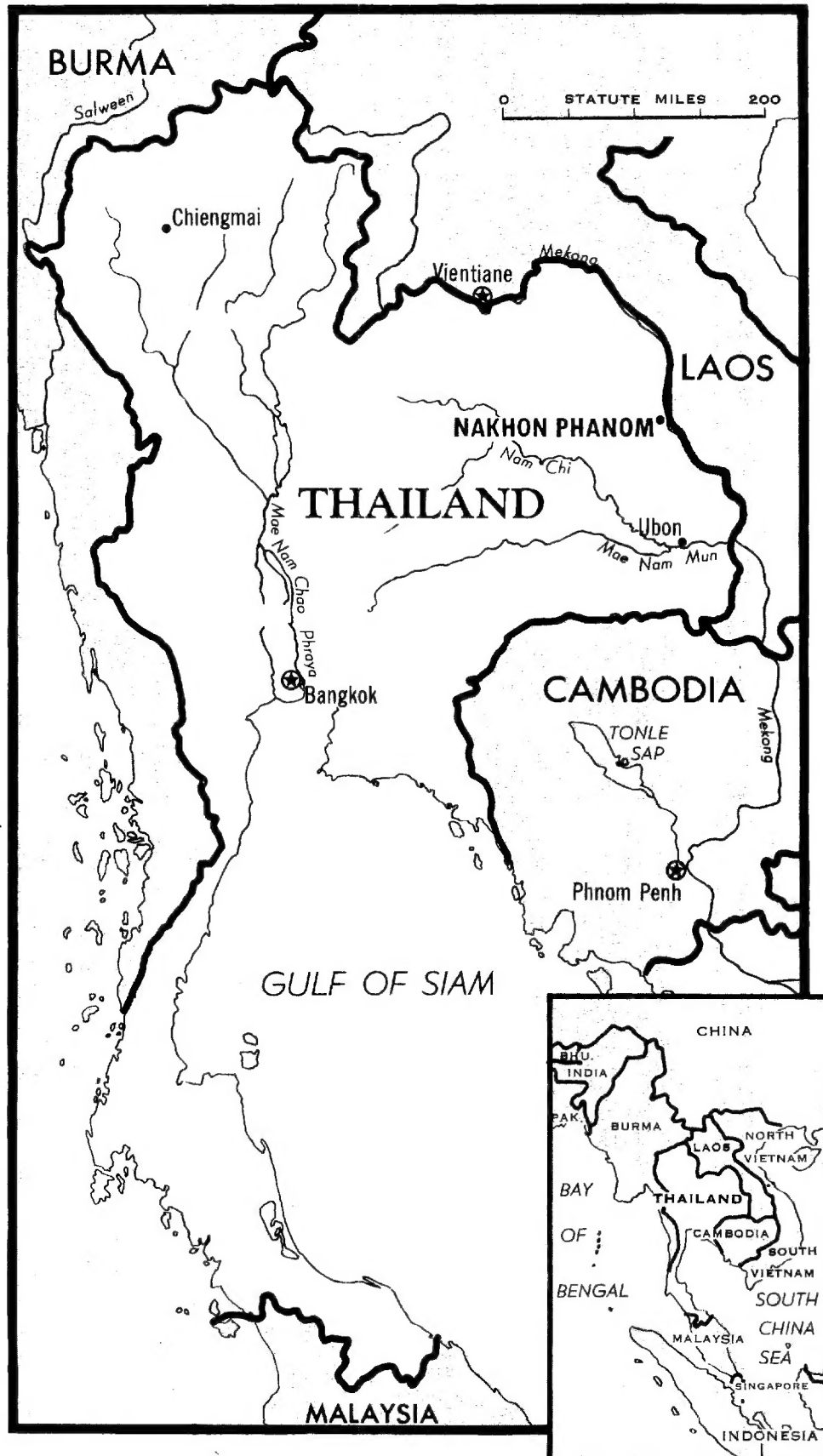
In a televised speech on the evening of 8 December, Peralta reassured the Guatemalan people that his regime is capable of maintaining public order and demanded that terrorists who have engaged in kidnappings and other forms of extortion cease their activities. If he fails to follow the speech with effective measures against the terrorists, however, he may lessen public confidence still further.

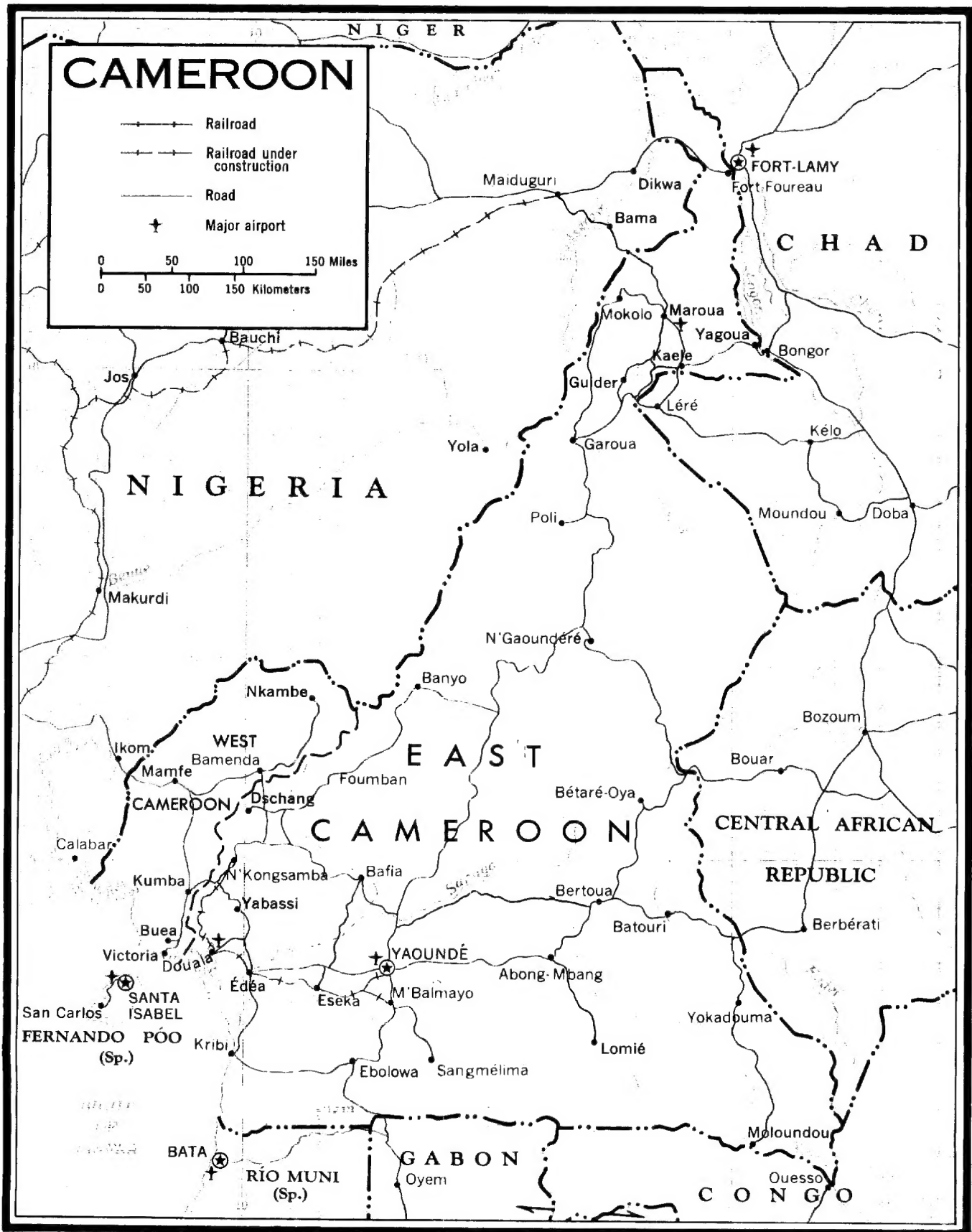
The terrorists struck again on the day of Peralta's televised appearance. They killed three farmers in Zacapa, and in Guatemala City shot the visiting mayor of a village in the guerrilla-infested Department of Izabal. On 9 December the third victim in a series of kidnap plots was released in return for \$75,000 ransom.

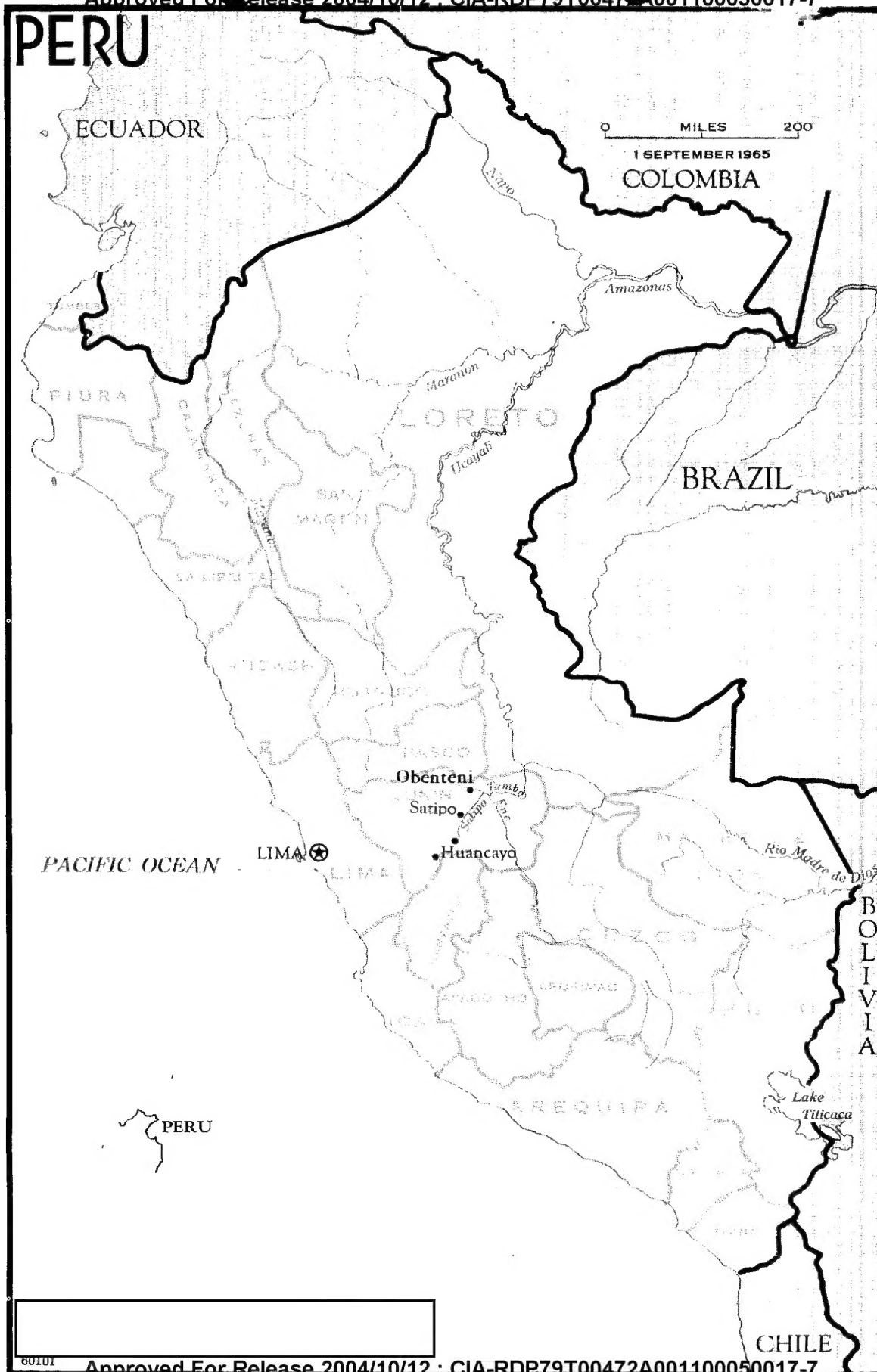
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